POLITICS AND PEOPLE

By JIM MERRINER
Constitution Political Editor

Bond Will Become Playboy Columnist

The political writers in town are about to have some stiff competition from none other than Julian Bond, traveling lecturer, poet, politician, occasional TV star and a state senator who observes Senate proceedings from time to time.

MERRINER

Bond reportedly has signed up to do eight political columns for Playboy, a magazine that also has taken recent note, in interviews, of a couple of other Georgia politicians, Jimmy Carter and Andrew Young.

Evidently there is some quality about Georgia politicians that boosts Playboy circulation, although Bond may be hard pressed to improve on Carter's discussion of lust, or Young's of racism.

Bond also is slated to do some writing for Players, which is sort of a black-oriented counterpart to Playboy.

Meanwhile, Bond is trying to arrange an interview with George Wallace, promising that it will be "objective."

And according to impresario David Franklin, who has many contacts in show biz, ABC television is interested in hiring Bond as a political commentator.

Bond's new career in journalism probably will feature some digs at the Carter administration.

He told a friend in Atlanta recently that he could get him a federal job, except that the friend was unqualified—alas, he belonged to no exclusive rich men's clubs.

* * *

An outfit called ERNIE (Electing Richard Nixon in Eighty) exists in Nashville. According to its premier newsletter, ERNIE has Watergate all figured out.

You may have heard that Watergate, Vietnam and the assassinations were conspiracies hatched by the Council on Foreign Relations, the Trilateral Commission, the communists, the capitalists, the FBI, the CIA, the liberal press or the vegetarians. Wrong, dead wrong.

Where all else have fallen short, ERNIE has succeeded in digging out the real conspiracy behind it all: *Rhodes Scholars.*

ERNIE irrefutably proves that many Rhodes scholars have attained high positions in American life. Now, what was the first country that Jimmy Carter visited as president? England. And where was Cecil Rhodes, who founded the Rhodes scholarships, from? Get the picture?

Vanderbilt University is tied up in this too, for it "has had a succession of British Rhodes scholars as chancellor." But here is the real tipoff: Bernard Fensterwald, the lawyer for Watergate conspirator James McCord, "is formerly of Nashville and attended his son's graduation from Vanderbilt during the Watergate hearings." It takes the breath away.

There is more, but I tremble to write it.

If ERNIE is a prank by Vanderbilt students, you should identify yourselves, for you have written the best political satire of the year.

Bond, Bond, Bond, could you? Reporter, ability, Political - Atlanta Co. 6-5-77